

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 017196 TOSEC 010134

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CHEROKEE FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), PFOR

SUBJECT: EVENING READING

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S EVENING READING FOR
FRIDAY, JANUARY 20:

1. TONGSUN PARK DEVELOPMENTS. DICK HOLBROOKE CALLED IN
KOREAN AMBASSADOR KIM LATE YESTERDAY TO EMPHASIZE OUR
DETERMINATION TO REPAIR US-KOREAN RELATIONS THIS YEAR AND
THE CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF KOREAN COOPERATION IN FACILITATING
CONGRESSIONAL ACCESS TO TONGSUN PARK. DICK SAID WE
BELIEVED THE ETHICS COMMITTEES WERE PREPARED TO BE REASON-
ABLE IF THE KOREANS WERE RESPONSIVE. BUT IF THE KOREANS
WERE NOT, PASSAGE OF THE ARMS TRANSFER LEGISLATION
WAS IN SERIOUS DANGER. KIM SAID HE HAD BEEN GIVEN THE
SAME MESSAGE BY TIP O'NEILL. SUBSEQUENTLY WE ARRANGED
FOR KIM TO SEE JAWORSKI'S DEPUTY. THE MEETING WAS
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CORDIAL, AND WE HOPE IT WILL LEAD TO A PRACTICAL DIALOGUE
BETWEEN THE ETHICS COMMITTEES AND THE KOREANS. KIM IS ON
HIS WAY BACK TO SEOUL WHERE HE WILL DO HIS BEST TO CONVINCE
PRESIDENT PARK TOWARD FURTHER FLEXIBILITY.

2. SALT. IN OUR BRIEFING OF DEAN RUSK EARLIER THIS
WEEK, HE FOCUSED HIS QUESTIONS ON BACKFIRE AND ON

VERIFICATION ISSUES. HE SEEMED CONCERNED THAT BACKFIRE WOULD NOT BE COUNTED IN THE AGGREGATE, BUT SAID THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT OUR APPROACH IF IT WERE HANDLED RIGHT. BY THAT HE SAID HE MEANT "NO HOKEY BUSINESS" LIKE PUTTING RESTRICTIONS ON BACKFIRE BASES. THE VERIFICATION ISSUE WHICH CONCERNED HIM MOST WAS THE GROWING SOVIET POTENTIAL TO DESTROY OUR SATELLITES. HE FELT THAT WE SHOULD MOVE URGENTLY ON AN ASAT BAN. DEAN ASKED TO BE KEPT INFORMED, AND HE IMPLIED THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO HELP WITH CONGRESS.

3. CUBA. A COAST GUARD DELEGATION WE RECENTLY SENT TO HAVANA RETURNED YESTERDAY TO REPORT THAT THEIR EXCHANGE WITH THEIR CUBAN COUNTERPARTS WENT WELL. THE CUBANS AGREED THAT IN THE FUTURE THEY WILL NOTIFY US PROMPTLY IF THEY DETAIN AMERICAN VESSELS CLOSE TO THEIR COAST. IN ADDITION, EACH SIDE NOW HAS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE OTHER'S SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURES. LAW ENFORCEMENT MEASURES AGAINST DRUG TRAFFICKING AND AGAINST TERRORIST ACTS WHICH WOULD ENDANGER MARITIME NAVIGATION WERE ALSO DISCUSSED.

4. ROMANIAN WORLD BANK LOAN REQUEST. LAST WEEK WE VOTED TO APPROVE A \$40 MILLION WORLD BANK LOAN TO ROMANIA FOR AN IRRIGATION PROJECT IN A PART OF ROMANIA EXTENSIVELY DAMAGED BY THE EARTHQUAKE LAST MARCH. OUR
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POSITION WAS CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY OF ENCOURAGING ROMANIA'S ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE, INCLUDING ITS PARTICIPATION (AS THE ONLY WARSAW PACT MEMBER) IN THE WORLD BANK, AND WITH OUR INTEREST IN DIRECTING IFI ASSISTANCE TO PROJECTS THAT MAY SERVE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS. IN CONNECTION WITH THE VOTE, WE REMINDED THE ROMANIANS THAT WE WILL BE CONSIDERING HUMAN RIGHTS FACTORS IN DETERMINING OUR POSITION ON WORLD BANK LOANS. THEY APPEAR TO UNDERSTAND THIS LINKAGE.

5. CANAL TREATIES. SEVEN MEMBERS OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SPARKMAN, CASE, CHURCH, PELL, SARBANES, JAVITS AND PERCY) RETURNED WEDNESDAY NIGHT FROM A TWO-DAY TRIP TO PANAMA. PREDICTABLY, THE PRINCIPAL TOPIC OF INTEREST WAS WHETHER TORRIJOS WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT MODIFICATIONS TO THE TREATIES, IN PARTICULAR THE INCORPORATION OF THE OCTOBER 14 STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING. TORRIJOS INDICATED FLEXIBILITY ON THESE POINTS.

ALTHOUGH ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS DELEGATION ARE INCLINED TO FAVOR THE TREATIES, THEY ARE WITHHOLDING OFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT UNTIL AFTER SFRC HEARINGS ARE COM-

PLETED ON JANUARY 25. YESTERDAY, THE COMMITTEE HEARD HISTORIANS AND LEGAL EXPERTS WHO, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE LAWYER WHO THOUGHT THAT THE TREATIES WERE UNFAIR TO PANAMA, WERE UNANIMOUSLY FAVORABLE.

6. BELIZE. THE BRITISH HAVE TOLD US THAT, CONTRARY TO THEIR EXPECTATIONS, BELIZEAN PREMIER PRICE HAS REJECTED MEDIATION BASED ON THE INFORMAL ANGLO-Guatemalan AGREEMENT ON LAND CESSION. HOWEVER, PRICE AGREED TO FURTHER TALKS IN LONDON NEXT WEEK. CHRISTOPHER

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